



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/

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Contact: Scott Ray
517-373-7670

Vast public support shown for clean water monitoring

Lansing – More efficient and accurate methods are needed to maintain the quality of the water in Lake St. Clair, according to residents speaking out at a town hall meeting Monday.

State Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond; Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac; and Rep. Daniel Acciavatti, R-Chesterfield Twp., met with local residents Monday to discuss water quality monitoring legislation currently before the Michigan Legislature.

“We all play a role in protecting our waters,” Sanborn said. “Monday’s meeting allowed us to hear from many residents whose everyday lives will be impacted by this legislation.”

House Resolution 128 asks Congress to enact the Great Lakes Controlled Data Collection and Monitoring Act. HR 129 and Senate Resolution 214 call for officials from the United States, Canada, Michigan, and Ontario to develop better notification procedures for when spills occur.

Senate Bill 977 and House Bill 5586 require the party responsible for a spill to immediately contact the local 911 dispatch center, which will get critical information to all local officials, particularly water plants, more quickly.

The bills also would require the responsible party to submit a full written report on the spill, including its cause, the types and amounts of materials released, response measures taken, and steps being taken to prevent future spills.

“Everyone pays a price when our waterways are contaminated,” Sanborn said. “These measures will help to prevent spills and minimize the impact of spills that occur.”

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